



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***The Prison Industrial Complex—Mapping Private Sector Players. Corrections Accountability Project. Urban Justice Center. Apr. 2018. 113 p.***

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58e127cb1b10e31ed45b20f4/t/5ade0281f950b7ab293c86a6/1524499083424/The+Prison+Industrial+Complex+-+Mapping+Private+Sector+Players+%28April+2018%29.pdf>

In the United States, \$80 billion is spent per year on prisons, and “more than half of that \$80 billion is used to pay the thousands of vendors that serve the U.S. prison system, including health-care providers,

commissary merchants, and food suppliers.” The more than 3,000 private corporations making up the system of private prisons share a for-profit motivation distinct from the more familiar not-for-profit prison system.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Majorities See Government Efforts to Protect the Environment as Insufficient.*** By Cary Funk, et al. Pew Research Center. May 14, 2018. 46 p.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/14/majorities-see-government-efforts-to-protect-the-environment-as-insufficient/>

“Generational differences emerge on some energy and climate issues but such differences occur primarily among Republicans, not Democrats. Republican Millennials are less inclined than their elders in the GOP to support increased use of fossil fuel energy sources through such methods as offshore drilling, hydraulic fracturing and coal mining. For example, 44% of Millennial Republicans support the increased use of offshore drilling, compared with 75% of Republicans in the Baby Boomer and older generations.” The report notes that “Republicans across all generations are largely in agreement over the consequences of policies aimed at reducing climate change.”

## EDUCATION

***The Permanent Detour: Underemployment’s Long-Term Effects on the Careers of College Grads.*** By Bledi Taska, et al. Burning Glass Technologies and Strada Institute for the Future of Work. May. 2018. 48 p.

[https://www.burning-glass.com/wp-content/uploads/permanent\\_detour\\_underemployment\\_report.pdf](https://www.burning-glass.com/wp-content/uploads/permanent_detour_underemployment_report.pdf)

“Bachelor’s degree graduates whose first job does not require a bachelor’s degree (which is how the study defines the underemployed) are significantly likelier than those whose first job did require such a degree to still be underemployed five years later. (Many of those workers remain underemployed by this definition 10 years after leaving college.) As is true of so many overarching statistics like this, enormous variation occurs among the graduates. Degree holders in many science and technology [fields] are less likely to be underemployed—and notably, women are quite a bit *more likely* than men to face that fate: 47% of them are underemployed, versus 37% of male graduates.” ([Inside Higher Ed](#), May 23, 2018).

***Promising Practices: Rethinking Dual Enrollment to Reach More Students.*** By Jennifer Zinth, Education Commission of the States. May 2018. 13 p.

[https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking\\_Dual\\_Enrollment\\_to\\_Reach\\_More\\_Students.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking_Dual_Enrollment_to_Reach_More_Students.pdf)

This report summarizes options for promoting dual enrollment for high schoolers—i.e., enrolling in both high school and a community college. The researchers lay out program options that would include high-, mid- and low-range achieving students, known as “differentiated dual enrollment.” These programs typically offer stronger academic supports for mid-to-low achieving students, which some research shows as having a benefit of boosting these students’ academic performance. A California program promoting Career and Technical Education dual enrollment—concurrent courses from the James Irvine Foundation—is highlighted for its success rates.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Number of Foreign College Students Staying and Working in U.S. After Graduation Surges.*** By Neil G. Ruiz, et al. Pew Research Center. May 2018. 40 p.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2018/05/10/number-of-foreign-college-students-staying-and-working-in-u-s-after-graduation-surges/>

“Between 2004 and 2016, nearly 1.5 million foreign graduates of U.S. colleges and universities obtained authorization to remain and work in the U.S. through the federal government’s Optional Practical Training program (OPT). More than half (53%) of the foreign graduates approved for employment specialized in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.” Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose are among the Top 10 metropolitan areas with the largest number of foreign graduates in the OPT program.

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada.* Report #242. Little Hoover Commission. Feb. 2018. 87 p.**

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/sites/lhc.ca.gov/files/Reports/242/Report242.pdf>

“A century of mismanaging Sierra Nevada forests has brought an unprecedented environmental catastrophe that impacts all Californians—and with it, a rare opportunity for transformational culture change in forest management practices.” This report’s recommendations are divided into five categories: (1) increasing pace and scale of forest restoration through collaboration; (2) creating a culture where fire is a tool, not a threat; (3) developing a long-term plan for forest materials; (4) educating Californians on forest resiliency; and (5) planning for the long-term and ensuring accountability.

## HEALTH

***Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes.* The National Academies Press. Jan. 2018. 775 p.**

<http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>

“Much of the research on e-cigarettes suffers from methodological flaws, and many important areas have not yet been researched. Nonetheless, the committee found sufficient literature to suggest that, while there are risks associated with e-cigarettes, compared with combustible tobacco cigarettes, e-cigarettes contain fewer toxicants; can deliver nicotine in a manner similar to combustible tobacco cigarettes; show significantly less biological activity in a number of in vitro, animal, and human systems; and might be useful as a cessation aid to smokers who use e-cigarettes exclusively. However, youth who begin with e-cigarettes are more likely to transition to combustible tobacco cigarette use and become smokers who may be at risk to suffer the known health burdens of combustible tobacco cigarettes. Moreover, although infrequent, e-cigarettes can explode, leading to burns and other injuries, and consumption of or dermal exposure to e-liquids is dangerous, even fatal.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Missed Opportunities: Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness in America.* Voices of Youth Count. May. 2018. 16 p.**

<https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/VoYC-PP-Brief-FINAL.pdf>

The third in a series of Research-to-Impact briefs details “the unique challenges faced by young people experiencing homelessness who are pregnant or parenting.... Many of the nearly 4.2 million adolescents and young adults in America who experience some type of homelessness during a 12-month period are pregnant or young parents. Many of those young parents are homeless with their children, and pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness are a particularly vulnerable population.” The [first](#) and [second](#) series discussed the national estimate of youth homelessness and LGBT youth homelessness, respectively.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***Federal Cybersecurity Risk Determination Report and Action Plan.*** Office of Management and Budget. May 2018. 22 p.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Cybersecurity-Risk-Determination-Report-FINAL\\_May-2018-Release.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Cybersecurity-Risk-Determination-Report-FINAL_May-2018-Release.pdf)

“The White House and the Department of Homeland Security have finished a governmentwide review examining the security of federal agencies, and the results aren’t pretty. Dozens of federal agencies have cybersecurity programs that aren’t properly equipped to deal with cyber intrusions in their networks.... The report found that 12 agencies had ‘high risk’ programs, meaning key cybersecurity tools weren’t in place or weren’t deployed sufficiently. Fifty-nine agencies had ‘at risk’ programs, meaning some of the right policies were in place but there were ‘significant gaps’ in terms of security. OMB also noted that federal agencies lacked the visibility into their own networks that would help them detect attempts to steal data and respond to other cyber incidents.” ([Washington Post](#), May 30, 2018).

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Home Prices, Housing Wealth and Home Equity Extraction.*** By Andrew Haughtwout, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of New York. May 17, 2018. 43 p.

<https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/press/Homeownership-and-Housing-Wealth-May172018.pdf>

A new presentation from the New York Fed provides an outline of “recent developments in household credit, home prices and homeownership.” The presentation also covers growth in home equity and provides details about how that equity value is accessed.

### ***About the California Research Bureau***

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